



BY: JP O'NEIL, CLIPPER INTERN

Duxbury Rural and Historical Society director Erin McGough is spending her time making sure the heritage and rural environment of Duxbury is preserved for future generations.

McGough's first involvement with the DRHS was in 2011 as the collections manager.

"My job was to manage the historical houses in Duxbury, provide research, and to coordinate events," McGough said. "One of my biggest events was "Digging Duxbury," where we excavated the 17th century homestead of Pilgrim Elder William Brewster discovering Native American tools over 3,000 years old. We even opened up the area for the public in the summer of 2012 to see our findings."

In August of 2013, due to her previous success, McGough was asked to be the Interim Executive Director of the DRHS after former long time Executive Director Patrick Browne stepped down.

"My new role was close to what I would have expected, just a little more work than I would have guessed," McGough said. "But I loved the role as the Interim Executive Director and embraced it. There is always something to do. No two days are ever the same."

With McGough as the Interim Executive Director, the DRHS never missed a beat.

"I had to ensure stability of the DRHS and help us transition into a new period as a whole," McGough said. "We were constantly experimenting with new ideas, it was an exciting time for us." The DRHS interviewed nearly 40 applicants, many of whom had also accumulated years of experience in museums and historical societies.

"Even among this strong pool, Erin clearly stood out, offering an outstanding combination of experience, vision, organization and personal skills," said Duxbury Rural and Historical DRHS Board President David P. Corey. She was chosen by unanimous vote of the Search Committee, with unanimous ratification by the Trustees." McGough was officially hired as the Executive Director in February, 2014. "It has been a big honor and a fantastic experience," McGough said. "I enjoy working with the rest of the DRHS. Each member brings a wealth of knowledge to our

everyday activities.” The DRHS almost always has something going on. There are over 60 programs and events that take place throughout the year. Many of which

Continued on page [5](#)

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**McGough stands outside the Nathaniel Winsor, Jr. House on Washington Street.**

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**McGough was hired as Executive Director 2014.**

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Continued from page [1](#)

are actually volunteer driven.

“There is no way we could accomplish everything without the help of our volunteers. We always have room for anybody that would like to be involved,” McGough said. “We appreciate everything the community does for us.”

As the Executive Director, McGough brings with her many accomplishments and great experiences to the DRHS. McGough had previously spent a year working as the registrar at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, over seven years as the registrar and Collections Manager at Concord Museum, and completed multiple internships at registrars offices to make sure she would be prepared for her opportunity.

“I received my Bachelors degree in Art History and Criticism and Conservation at The College of William and Mary and my Masters degree in Museum Studies at Tufts University,” McGough said. “I knew early on being involved with Museums was what I wanted to do.”

McGough couldn't be more happy than to be working with the DRHS.

“I love the history,” McGough said. “So many generations have put a lot of effort into preserving all the great artifacts of Duxbury. It is our job to continue that tradition.”